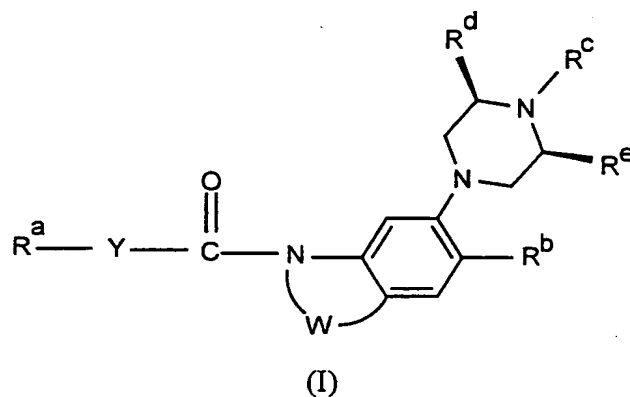
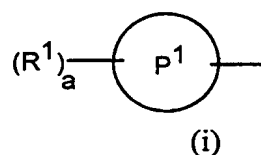


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



in which R^a is a group of formula (i)



wherein P^1 is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl;

R^1 is halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, COC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy,

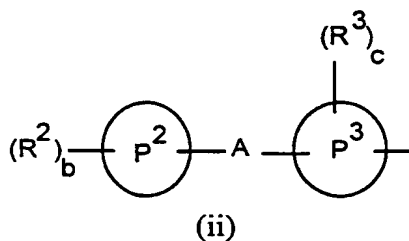
hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, nitro, CF_3 , cyano, SR^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , $SO_2NR^6R^7$, CO_2R^6 ,

15 $CONR^6R^7$, $OCONR^6R^7$, NR^6R^7 , $NR^6CO_2R^7$, $NR^6CONR^7R^8$, $CR^6=NOR^7$ where R^6 ,

R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

a is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

or R^a is a group of formula (ii)



wherein

P^2 is phenyl, naphthyl, heteroaryl or a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

25 P^3 is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl;

A is a bond or oxygen, carbonyl, CH_2 or NR^4 where R^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^2 is as defined above for R^1 in formula (i) or R^2 is heteroaryl optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen or COC_{1-6} alkyl or is a 5 - 7 membered heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by oxo;

- R^3 is halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, COC_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, nitro, CF_3 , cyano, CO_2R^6 , $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6R^7 where R^6 and R^7 are as defined above;
- b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

Y is a single bond, CH_2 , O or NR^5 where R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

- W is $-(CR^9R^{10})_t-$ where t is 2, 3 or 4 and R^9 and R^{10} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl or W is a group $-CH=CH-$;

R^b is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3 , COC_{1-6} alkyl, cyano or C_{1-6} alkoxy;

R^c is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^d and R^e are independently C_{1-4} alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^a is a group of formula (i) wherein P^1 is phenyl.

3. A compound according to claim 2 in which R^1 is halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, nitro, CF_3 or cyano.

4. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which Y is CH_2 .

5. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^a is a group of formula (ii) wherein A is a single bond, P^3 is phenyl or naphthyl and P^2 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl or piperidinyl.

6. A compound according to any of the preceding claim in which W is $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $-CH=CH-$.

7. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which R^c is hydrogen or methyl.

8. A compound according to any of the preceding claims in which R^d and R^e are both methyl.

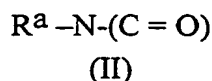
9. A compound according to claim 1 which is a compound E1 - E73 (as described above) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A compound according to claim 1 which is

- cis*-1-[(2-chloro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indole,
cis-1-[(2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-5-methoxy-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indoline,
cis-1-[(2,3-dichlorophenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxyindoline
 5 *cis*-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxy-1-[4-(2-methyl-6-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)benzoyl]-indoline,
cis-1-[(3-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)acetyl]-6-(3,5-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-methoxyindole,
cis-1-[(2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]-5-fluoro-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indole,
 10 *cis*-1-[2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]aminocarbonyl]-5-methyl-6-(3,4,5-trimethylpiperazin-1-yl)indoline
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

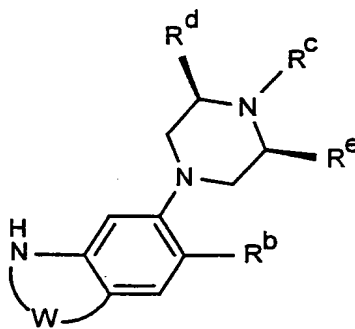
11. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof which comprises:

- (a) where Y is NH, coupling a compound of formula (II):



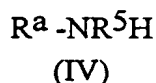
20

in which R^a is as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula (III):



- 25 in which W, R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e are as defined in formula (I); or

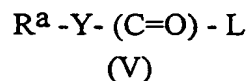
- (b) where Y is NR^5 , reacting a compound of formula (IV)



30

in which R^a and R^5 are as defined in formula (I) with a compound of formula (III) as defined above together with an appropriate urea forming agent; or

(c) where Y is a single bond, CH_2 or O, reacting a compound of formula (V)



in which R^a is as defined in formula (I) and L is an appropriate leaving group, with a compound of formula (III) as defined above;

and optionally thereafter for process (a), (b) or (c):

- removing any protecting groups,
- converting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I),
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

12. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in therapy.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in the treatment of depression.

14. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to any of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

15. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or disorders where an antagonist of the $5-HT_{1B}$ receptor is beneficial.

16. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or disorders where an antagonist of the $5-HT_{1B}$ receptor is beneficial.